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Montana Kaimin, 1898-present

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4-22-2021

### Montana Kaimin, April 22, 2021

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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# MONTANA KAIMIN

## First in the family

What an in-person commencement  
means for first-generation grads

Story by Erin Sargent  
Photos by Claire Shinner



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race  
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out  
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Volume 123  
Issue No. 29,  
April 22, 2021





# Kiosk

Cover Photo  
Claire Shinner



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message" or "paper that brings news."

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## KAIMIN COMIC



COOPER MALIN| MONTANA KAIMIN

# Letter from the Editor: On reclamation

Monday morning, walking into the Kaimin office for my last production day as Editor-in-Chief, I went to the archives and pulled out our last issue from Spring 2020. I wanted to read my predecessor's sign off — one she wrote from her house as she finished her senior year remotely. I wanted to remind myself how much has changed.

I count myself incredibly lucky for a lot of things: a supportive family; the most amazing friends, coworkers and professors I could have asked for in my time at the University of Montana; the opportunity to run this newsroom.

Today, I am reminding myself how lucky I am to have had this year in-person, even if it felt disjointed. I was with my friends and my classmates nonetheless.

I was also lucky enough to write our last cover story on in-person commencement, which feels fitting after the year we've had.

I could use this space to write about what we've lost. It seems like the thing to do in a year like this, right? But then I thought about how that would make me feel. Would

writing it all out make me feel justified? Would it make me feel less alone?

And then I thought about how tired I am of talking about losses. If I keep thinking that I've lost my senior year of college, it's a disservice to my professors, my coworkers and myself. Because I didn't lose my senior year. I did do it. All of it. And it was hard and painful and without a lot of the things I thought I would have. But I did it, and so did you.

In my interviews last week, I sat down on a Zoom meeting — something that has become almost effortless for me — with Brittney Hunter, one of the first-generation students featured in this week's cover. She said something that has stayed with me since I heard it.

Talking about her coming back to walk across the stage for her 2020 diploma, she said she felt she was getting past the feeling of missing out on her moment. "I get to reclaim that," she told me.

So I've been thinking a lot about reclamation, and what it means at this time in

my life. I can't undo this pandemic. I can't pretend it didn't happen and I can't wish it away. Collectively, this is one of the most difficult things we have been through — probably for the rest of our lives. We will be carrying its trauma long after it is gone.

And still, we've done it. We've finished a whole academic year in a pandemic. And how far we've come, too. Because we get to finish this year with our friends, on campus.

I've told our incoming editor and her staff how much I wish that this is the last time, too. The last time coming to classes with masks, the last time signing on to Zoom classes. The last time meeting remotely in our student groups and clubs.

It's my wish for all of you, too.

But I want to talk about reclaiming these moments. Because I think that is equally as important. Every test taken and lesson learned, every masked class and virtual club meeting has led us to where we are today, and like it or not, we have grown in light of it. We need to claim it. All of it.

And I'm thinking about the best piece

of advice my mother has ever given me: Acknowledge what you feel when you feel it, and call it by its name.

I have felt loss this year. We all have. I have held that loss in my hands, I have let myself feel it and I have called it by its name. I am ready to hold another feeling in my hands now.

My fellow graduates and I are leaving college walking across a stage, masked. But we are walking. We did it. And if you aren't a graduate this year, you'll do it next year. Or the year after. Or the year after.

Let this, all of this, be part of that story. Reclaim it. Hold it in your hands and call it by its name.

**Erin Sargent**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Like it? Hate it? Wish we were dead?**  
email us your opinions at  
[editor@montanakaimin.com](mailto:editor@montanakaimin.com)

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

2		8			1			
3	6		5			7		
		4		3				6
				9			5	
			8			4		3
9		2	6			5		7
8				2				
		3			5	6	9	

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

### HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

5	2	4	6	3	7	1	9	8
9	8	6	5	1	4	7	2	3
1	3	7	8	2	9	4	6	5
6	1	8	9	4	3	5	7	2
2	5	3	7	8	6	9	1	4
7	4	9	1	5	2	3	8	6
4	7	2	3	9	8	6	5	1
3	9	5	2	6	1	8	4	7
8	6	1	4	7	5	2	3	9

## Meet the 2021-2022 Kaimin Editor



I moved to Missoula freshman year, eager and more than a little nervous to begin my time at the School of Journalism. I'll never forget the feeling of seeing my first byline in the Kaimin, a culmination of all the hard work I'd put into the story. I've worked here, since that first story, as a news reporter and features editor, and I am honored to get the chance to lead next year. I am passionate about keeping our coverage student-focused and working hard to ensure we bring UM students important news. The Kaimin will continue striving to represent all corners of the UM community. I'm so excited to get to work.

-Addie Slanger, incoming Editor-in-Chief



# Briefs: Anti-trans bill protest, food pantry plans and end of Election Day registration

MAZANA BOERBOOM

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### Students protest anti-trans bill at Capitol

Students went to Helena to protest House Bill 112, "Save Women's Sports Act," which would ban transgender athletes from participating in the school sports team that matches their gender identity, on Monday. Several people held signs asking Gov. Greg Gianforte to veto the bill.

Rachel Gordon, a UM junior studying gender and sexuality studies, public and community health and women, was one of six speakers at the protest. She said about 50 people showed up to support them.

"We spoke about how HB 112 is not an effort to protect women's sports, but is explicitly transphobic and pushing an agenda that is inherently marginalizing to human rights," Gordon wrote in a statement.

She said that for the Legislature to deny trans children the teamwork experiences of sports that their cis peers get is to admit their inherent transphobia.

The bill has already passed the third reading in both the Senate and House. The Senate passed it in a hearing on Tuesday to discuss an amendment to the bill, according to NBC Montana reporter Emma Wulforst's Twitter.

### Food Pantry plans to address need insecurities

The 2020 #RealCollege survey results are in, and UM's numbers are a bit concerning, according to a UM Food Pantry email.

The survey looks at food and housing insecurity among college students across the country. Food insecurity is the uncertain availability of food that is nutritious and safe and housing insecurity can include not being able to pay rent or utility bills or the need to move often, according to the Hope Center.

Out of nearly 200,000 student responses, the survey found that 58% of respondents experienced at least one need-based insecurity; 34% had been food insecure within the last month, 48% experienced housing insecurity within the past year, and 14% had been homeless within the last year.

UM results were slightly higher than the national averages. At UM, 63% of students experienced at least one form of need-based insecurity; 32% experienced food insecurity in the last month, 50% experienced housing insecurity in the last year, and 23% experienced homelessness in the past year.

The food pantry also found that half of UM students experiencing need didn't use campus support because they didn't know how. The

pantry has been partnering with other organizations to increase their capacity and plans to offer more support with housing and with navigating resources.

"There are unfortunately a lot of negative stereotypes about college students, but the reality is that students are people first, and it's as tough as it's ever been to be a college student right now," the UM Food Pantry's email stated.

### The end of Election Day registration in Montana

Gov. Greg Gianforte signed House Bill 176, which ends same day voter registration on Election Day, into law on Monday. Now voter registration will end at noon the day before an election. Same-day registration will only stay open for military and overseas electors.

"We are blessed with the privilege of voting, but we also must accept responsibility for that privilege," Rep. Sharon Greef, one of the bill's sponsors, said in her introduction of HB 176. "Elections don't pop up out of the blue and surprise us."

Greef cited worries of voter fraud as a reason to change this, though there is no evidence to support her concerns in Montana.

"This bill is the first in a long line of voter

suppression bills this session, and with certainty will disenfranchise Indigenous people, younger voters, and older voters, among others," the ACLU of Montana said in a Facebook post about HB 176.

### COVID-19 update in Missoula

The University held a second-dose vaccine clinic for those who received their first vaccines at the clinics in early April and the county has continued with walk-up clinics in the former Lucky's Market at the Southgate Mall. There are two more clinics this week on Thursday and Friday. The FDA halted the Johnson & Johnson vaccine administration after six women in the U.S. developed blood clots.

Missoula County's COVID-19 vaccine dashboard updates weekly on Mondays, while the state's COVID-19 dashboard updates daily.

As of Monday, Missoula County:

- Administered more than 92,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, around 9,000 more than last week.
- Completed nearly 40,000 second doses, the final step to immunity — roughly 7,000 more than last year.
- Had 87 active cases of COVID-19, 43 fewer than last week.

As of Tuesday, Montana:

- Administered nearly 650,000 doses, around 50,000 more than last week.
- Completed just more than 280,000 second doses, roughly 30,000 more than last week.
- Had 1,025 active cases, 20 more than last week.

# Blotter: Shattered glass, stolen Adirondacks and drunken bathroom breaks

GRACE CARR

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Between April 8 and 14, UMPD reported five crimes on and around campus. MIP was the most common crime this week. UMPD Lt. Brad Giffin said criminal activity is typically lower on campus this time of year as students are finishing up with classes and taking their finals online.

### SATURDAY 04/10: POPO POSERS

Officers received a report of someone in a black Jeep possibly posing as a law enforcement officer on the corner of Arthur and Eddy avenues. Lt. Giffin said if the car is clearly not a law enforcement vehicle, call 911 to ask for confirmation and do not pull over. If you are stopped and you feel it was someone who was not in law enforcement, report it. Drive safe, folks.

### SATURDAY 04/10: CAR CROOK

An "M" Trail hiker returned from their walk to find someone was going through their vehicle in the trailhead parking lot Saturday morning. The suspect left the scene before the owner could make contact with him but nothing was taken. The vehicle trespasser was reportedly a 6-foot male in his mid-30s with shaggy hair wearing a black hoodie and dirty blue jeans. Do with that description as you wish.

### SATURDAY 04/10: DRUNKEN DISPUTE

Officers responded to Madeline and Beckwith near the U.S. Forest Service

building Saturday afternoon where a man and woman were arguing loudly. Both were warned for disorderly conduct, as the incident was not physical. However, the underage male half of the arguing pair was also in possession of alcohol by consumption and was referred to conduct for a Liquor Law Violation.

### SUNDAY 04/11: BATHROOM BEAUTY SLEEP

A fun night out ended as a not-so-fun night in the bathroom for a student in Duniway Hall. Early Sunday morning, a female student was found passed out in a men's bathroom in the residence hall. She was referred to conduct for possession of alcohol by consumption and returned safely to her room.

### SUNDAY 04/11: BREAK THE GLASS

UMPD received a report Sunday afternoon that the glass of the UDASH bus stop at the Missoula College had been shattered. Officers put in a work order to replace the glass valued at over \$500. There are no suspects, and no time or date of the glass shattering incident has been determined.

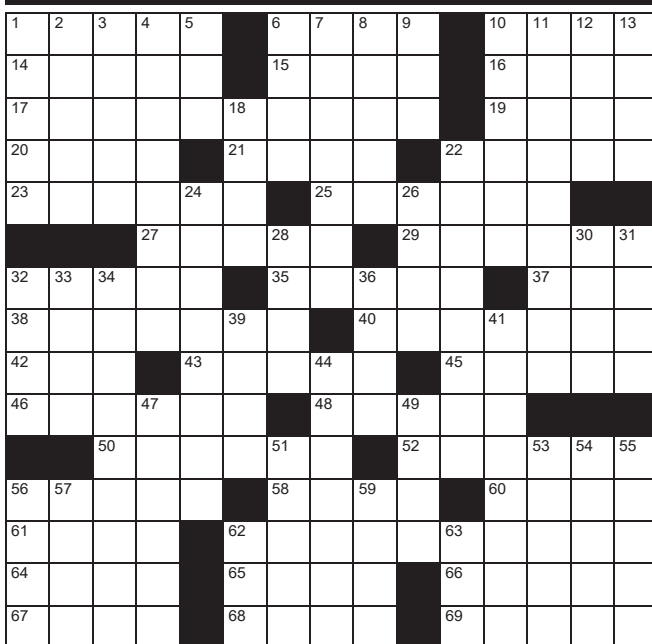
### MONDAY 04/12: GREEDY GREEK LIFE

For those who frequent the Oval, you may have noticed a plethora of Adirondack chairs spread across the quad. One of the Greek Life houses on University Avenue swiped a few for their yard on an unknown date. Officers arrived Monday afternoon to retrieve the stolen chairs and the group was referred for conduct, despite claiming the chairs had been there for several years.

# What are your graduation plans?



## The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



### ACROSS

- 1 First class alternative
- 6 Best poker pair
- 10 Out for the night
- 14 Banishment
- 15 Diane of 2020's "Let Him Go"
- 16 \_\_\_\_ of thumb
- 17 Very small
- 19 \_\_\_\_-bodied
- 20 Biblical garden
- 21 Lackluster
- 22 Like some legends
- 23 Obtain (from)
- 25 Turn indicator
- 27 Ship's freight
- 29 Join the party
- 32 Backpack part
- 35 Wrestling "Giant"
- 37 Coffee, slangily
- 38 Soon, in old times
- 40 Bawdy
- 42 Squealer
- 43 Odometer button
- 45 Tribal pole
- 46 Pamplona pals
- 48 Carpenter's device
- 50 Producing an effect
- 52 Pueblo structures
- 56 Post-sneeze word
- 58 Kid's claim
- 60 Basketball dunk
- 61 Farm sound
- 62 Awe-inspiring
- 64 "\_\_\_\_ bitten, twice shy"
- 65 Bailiff's request
- 66 Group of experts
- 67 Sprinter's event

- 68 On bended \_\_\_\_
- 69 Preferred guests

### DOWN

- 1 Gave up
- 2 Nitrous \_\_\_\_ (laughing gas)
- 3 One using a scope
- 4 Like some drug trials
- 5 Barnyard brooder
- 6 Type of sax
- 7 Artillery wagon
- 8 Closing stanza
- 9 "Didn't I tell you?"
- 10 Noah's landfall
- 11 Kind of printer
- 12 Fitzgerald of jazz
- 13 Former TV chef Paula
- 18 \_\_\_\_-friendly
- 22 Not yet proven
- 24 Misty
- 26 Worn things
- 28 Comedian's stock
- 30 Zilch
- 31 Hold as an opinion
- 32 Some injections
- 33 Airport conveyance
- 34 Restraint
- 36 Spoil, with "on"
- 39 Bitter end?
- 41 Enormous
- 44 Planetary path
- 47 Engine seal
- 49 Ming artifact
- 51 Part of FDA, briefly
- 53 Russian pancake
- 54 Windchime spot, often
- 55 Silvery fish
- 56 Prosperous time
- 57 Pickup shtick
- 59 "Grimm" actress Turner
- 62 Exasperate
- 63 Health resort

### Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

L	A	M	B		C	R	O	S	S		T	B	A	R
A	C	A	I		H	A	V	E	N		W	A	L	E
T	R	I	P	L	I	C	A	T	E		I	R	O	N
H	E	M	L	O	C	K		T	E	S	T	B	E	D
			A	R	K		A	E	R	A	T	E		
A	B	U	N	D	A	N	C	E		B	E	R	T	H
N	O	N	E		D	O	C		J	E	R	S	E	Y
G	O	D		S	E	D	U	C	E	R		H	A	P
S	T	E	P	P	E		S	O	T		R	O	S	E
T	H	R	E	E		N	E	W	S	P	A	P	E	R
			T	R	A	C	E	R		E	L	M		
C	R	A	C	K	L	E		S	T	O	P	G	A	P
L	A	K	E		A	D	M	I	T	T	A	N	C	E
O	V	E	N		S	L	A	T	E		G	A	M	E
P	E	R	T		P	E	T	E	R		E	W	E	R

### CLARISE LARSON

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Summer is knocking at the door, and so is Taurus szn. Many of you are about to leave school and become, like, real adults. With graduation looming, better believe that everyone over the age of 50 will be asking you, "wHaT aRe yOuR pLaNs aFtEr sChOol?" We have the answers to the absolute and unchangeable fate of your life, written in horoscope form!

**TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20):** You're practical, and you got a bad case of TCB (takin' care of business). There is nothing that sounds better than finishing four grueling years of school than immediately going and doing two more! Taurus, you give big academic guy vibes, and are sending it straight into graduate school. Mad respect, just remember to not get lost in the sauce of academia.

**GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20):** You're the busiest of the bunch, Gem. You got your dream job, but you also got your OTHER dream job too. The average person would choose one over the other for the sake of their sanity, but you're not the average bitch. Eighty-hour work week right out of college? Sure thing, chicken wing.

**CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22):** You are sentimental and really compassionate, and we love that about you, Cancer. BUT PLEASE LEAVE :). Close the yearbook and see the world, or just leave Missoula! We know it's going to be hard, but you've got a heart of gold and can do anything, bby. UM will always be here when you get back!

**LEO (JULY 23–AUG. 22):** You decided you want to travel across Europe for the next year because you just want to "find yourself," but really, daddy has a lot of money and you want a good Instagram feed. To be fair though, the feed will indeed be FIRE, and you can worry about real life later XOXO.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23–SEP. 22):** You have spent the last four years working your ASS off to make the Dean's List every semester. It's actually astonishing you're still alive. But hey bitch, we are here to tell you that you did it. You know what it means to be dependable and to get things done. That's why you're off to your dream job — because you deserve it. Queen shit right over here.

**LIBRA (SEP. 23–OCT. 22):** When the job you applied for said no, you said no to their no. You being the assertive baddie that you are got the job because you are so fucking stubborn and negotiated your way in. Maybe not the simplest path, but you never like things easy, Libra.

### OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

**SCORPIO (OCT. 23–NOV. 21):** No one has seen you on campus since freshman orientation and no one will see you after you step off the stage with your diploma, you mysterious bitch.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22–DEC. 22):** "I'm graduating? OMG yay!" you say when your cap and gown arrive. Honey, you've had a GOOD time at UM being a super-super senior, but it's time to move on. The first step? Figuring out what you actually majored in. Second, vibe out! You don't need to hop straight into the workforce, it's okay to take time off and figure things out. Mommy and Daddy miss you, and your basement never looked so cozy <3.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23–JAN. 19):** School's out and you're ready for an adventure. Everyone hears those stories about people going to Alaska to commercial fish and make FAT BANK, but usually, no one actually goes because it's terrible. UNTIL NOW. JK, but regardless of where you end up after you shake Daddy Bodnar's hand, we get the vibe that you're about to embark on a dope-ass adventure.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20–FEB. 18):** You just bought your ticket to NYC, baby! Omg, like you just NEED to be where CuLtUre is and where you can pursue your ~dreams~. Picture yourself waking up with your model boyfriend and seeing the Empire State Building from your pent-house apartment. How do we break it to you that the only view you're able to afford is the McDonald's across the street and the only thing sharing the sheets with you will be bed bugs?

**PISCES (FEB. 19–MARCH 20):** You're gonna buy a van to live in or something and start a YouTube channel about it. Pisces, you're a dreamer, and where do dreams go to die? YouTube. Once that phase is over, we picture you opening a small business you're really passionate about. For now, we will not be watching your terrible vibey videos sponsored by some fake fitness drink. Offense intended <3.

**ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19):** School's out, we bouta send it to muthafuckin' MEXICO!!! Let's get our drink on, right? JK, it's a fucking pandemic and even though you're a crazy lil bitch, you know better than to be partying right now. Instead, before you start your very professional and respectable internship, you're going to buy out the Orange Street Food Farm for every case of White Claws that they own for the ultimate drunken rafting adventure on the Clark Fork River. Proud of you, boo.



# Students' energy-efficient proposal aims to replace lighting in campus buildings

MARIAH THOMAS

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Three University of Montana students have teamed up to create a proposal to replace outdated lighting fixtures with sustainable, energy-saving versions in the University Center and campus recreation center.

Their proposal is essentially a large upgrade project.

"Basically what we're doing is we're taking the old, inefficient lights and we're replacing them with LEDs," said Ryan Cote, one of the students behind the plan. "Then we're doing something called retrocommissioning, which is upgrading the systems, like heating, air conditioning, ventilation, that could be faltering."

They made the proposal through KRELf, the Kless Revolving Energy Loan Fund. According to its website, the fund "allows students to propose projects that save energy on campus using money generated through a \$6 opt-out student sustainability fee."

The projects must meet certain criteria to be selected, including being student-backed and involving auxiliary buildings at UM, like the University Center and campus recreation facilities.

Julianne Musumeci, one of the students behind the proposal, had the idea to work on a KRELf proposal surrounding the outdated lighting in the University Center and campus rec in the spring of 2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but was unable to make the project come to fruition on her own after the pandemic hit.

Then, in the fall semester, the other two students, Cote and Nicholas Shepard, took an Environmental Citizenship course with Musumeci where they were divided into groups to work on a semester-long project.

"Our teacher told us we had to have a project we were working on all semester and he said that we could use KRELf, and I thought this seemed like an awesome opportunity to continue working on this project because it had stalled out with COVID," Musumeci said.

Musumeci pitched the project to her professor and the class, and Cote and Shepard soon joined in. The three have been working together on the KRELf

proposal since.

Cote said another aspect of the project is contracting with McKinstry, a company that will be responsible for ensuring the work behind the trio's KRELf proposal gets completed.

"They're guaranteeing energy savings, which, for the University, equates to money being saved," Cote said.

Cote added that if anything goes wrong with their work, McKinstry has guaranteed that they will return to fix any issues.

Overall, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$242,000, funds that come from KRELf's large building fund. The trio said the energy savings that come as a long-term result of their proposal will far exceed the expenditure.

"In the past couple decades at UM, the issue of sustainability has become mainstream," Shepard said.

Shepard added that the sustainability theme at UM is a draw for prospective students, and the KRELf funding for this project will demonstrate that UM is serious about committing to its sustainability goals.

Musumeci also emphasized that the possible savings that come down the line as a result of the project's potential implementation is also important.

Musumeci, Cote and Shepard's KRELf proposal was approved on Tuesday morning by the KRELf committee, and will receive funding for its implementation.

For other students interested in bringing forward KRELf proposals in the future, Musumeci says to go for it. She said that the resources on campus are helpful, like sustainability coordinator Eva Rocke, who Musumeci, Cote and Shepard all said played a role in helping to develop their project.

"It's not as daunting as I thought it would be," Musumeci said. "It seems like it is and there's a lot of work involved, but it's worth it because you can make a real difference for the University and for your fellow students."



From left to right, Julianne Musumeci, Ryan Cote and Nicholas Shepard stand outside of the University Center building on April 18. The trio teamed up to create a proposal to replace the outdated lighting fixtures in the building and the campus recreation center. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**



# Latest campus remodel goes global, planning begins on Mansfield Library

JACOB OWENS

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The Mansfield Library's fourth floor may begin to look different in the coming months, as plans for remodeling have begun bringing the Defense Critical Language and Culture Program to campus.

The DCLCP is one of eight language learning centers in the United States financed by a federal grant. The program teaches languages "critical" to national security interests — such as Korean, French and Arabic — to individuals involved with the government and military.

The Board of Regents approved an expense request from the University of Montana at its January meeting for up to \$2.5 million for the project. The remodel may also move the Global Leadership Initiative from the University Center to the library's fourth floor.

Liz Barrs, the DCLCP's personnel and finance manager, said her team has been trying to move the program onto campus for several years and hopes the move helps

strengthen its relationships with others, like the World Languages and Culture Department and the Global Leadership Initiative.

"We have a wealth of language teaching expertise amongst our faculty," She said, adding that working with UM's language programs, teaches students to have a global perspective.

Donna McCrea, the head of archives and special

the first floor, otherwise the library may have to store books across various floors, move them to off-campus storage or even get rid of some.

"It's definitely not our preferred way to go forward, because what we really want to do is create more welcoming and flexible spaces for students to use," McCrea said.

The University of Montana

The \$2.5 million expenditure approved for the remodel is close to the proposed cut of \$2.6 million from the College of Humanities and Sciences, but Dave Kuntz, the director of strategic communications at the University, said the two are unrelated. He said the academic affairs budget, for individual colleges, is funded by the state and student tuition, whereas infrastructure projects are funded by bonds and private donors.

Barrs said the program's federal grant will pay for the remodel.

Moving the DCLCP onto campus has been one of President Seth Bodnar's goals. The move is part of what Kuntz calls "a phase of campus renewal," with new student-focused infrastructure projects being built like this one.

"It will pay extreme dividends not just for the University of Montana but really for the state and the country, and to have a world class program like this housed right on the campus has been a really important goal, and he's happy to see that goal come to fruition," Kuntz said.

GRAND  
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MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

collections at the Mansfield Library, said the renovation will not affect the archives housed on the fourth floor, but it will remove the student seating and library books.

She said the goal is to get mobile shelving so the fourth floor's books can be moved to

Campus Architect Jameel Chaudhry said it's too early to know when the project will begin because the architects just recently met with the project's shareholders over Zoom. Barrs said the goal is to make the move by 2022.

# ASUM opposes budget bill proposed by state house

MARIAH THOMAS

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ASUM is opposing House Bill 2, a budgeting bill that proposes cuts to higher education funding for the next two years, as well as cuts to mental health support, while giving more money toward implementing the new gun law.

Maggie Bornstein, ASUM's student political action director, cited multiple reasons for ASUM's opposition to HB 2, including a lack of funding to suicide prevention efforts. The bill would also give a \$1 million provision to implement the requirements of HB 102, which allows the concealed carry of firearms on campus starting in June.

Bornstein said that while the bill makes some effort to restore cuts to need-based aid with national COVID-19 relief funding, ASUM's concern is that the relief funding

wasn't meant to provide a supplement for cuts.

Bornstein said there are two issues with the \$1 million payout for HB 102: First, the funding comes with a contingency that the Montana University System won't litigate the bill, and second, it is unclear where the \$1 million figure came from.

"The issue is that [neither] the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education nor any colleges were asked for a fiscal note," Bornstein said.

Bornstein added that colleges

and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education are typically asked for fiscal notes on bills such as these because they are best equipped to assess the cost of implementation.

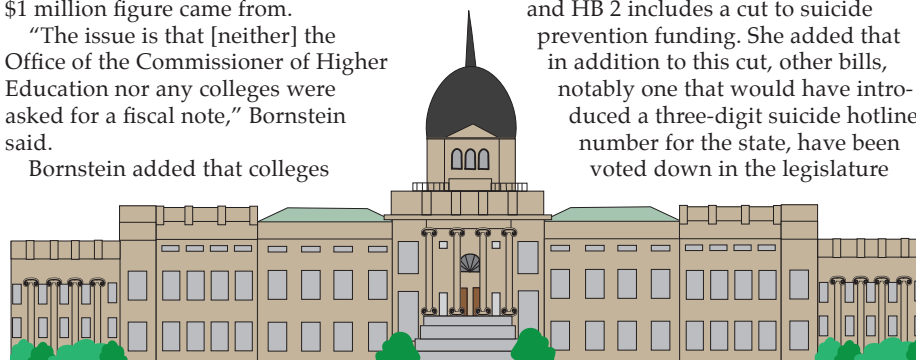
Bornstein also said one of ASUM's legislative priorities this year is mental health, and HB 2 includes a cut to suicide prevention funding. She added that in addition to this cut, other bills, notably one that would have introduced a three-digit suicide hotline number for the state, have been voted down in the legislature

this year. A national bill for a three-digit suicide hotline was carried in Congress by Gov. Greg Gianforte when he was Montana's representative.

Bornstein said HB 2 will be voted on at the state legislature within the next couple of weeks, and will likely not change much before then. She said the convening of the 2021 legislative session hinges on the passage of HB 2.

Bornstein encouraged students with concerns about HB 2 to call their state senators. She also said students concerned about suicide prevention specifically should contact Gov. Gianforte's office.

"In Congress, Governor Gianforte was an advocate for suicide prevention programming, so we've been directing students to call his office directly," Bornstein said.



MCKENNA JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN





# First in the family

What an in-person commencement means for first-generation grads

Story by Erin Sargent  
Photos by Claire Shinner

Asia Chhon has a few things to finish up before she walks across the University of Montana's stage on May 1: a 10-page proposal for her development studies project; a capstone lobbying for medicated assisted treatment in Montana; the last few weeks of her internship with court advocates for minors.

And she wants to make sure it's all done before her family members come up to Missoula for her graduation. All 35 of them.

"They're renting a ranch out of town," she says. "They've never been to Montana before, and they wanted to come and see it. And this is the perfect time. Even though a lot of them can't attend my graduation, they can still livestream it."

Chhon, a 21-year-old sociology major from Oakland, California, is a first-generation college student earning certificates in International Development Studies and with the Franke Global Leadership Initiative (GLI). She's the oldest of four siblings — the oldest of her whole extended family's children, too — and, as a junior, she's graduating early.

"I was the first one to go to college," she says. "A lot of them were looking up to me. And my parents said, 'You're going to make change in this world. You're going to do something. And all of your cousins are going to follow.'"

This May, UM graduates get to celebrate the end of their college careers with an in-person commencement ceremony — something that two years ago would have been considered an automatic given. And one year ago, a practically unthinkable concept.

For graduates of the class of 2020, who lost the last two months of their final year and celebrated virtually while isolated in their homes, the 2021 commencement they are invited back for is a chance for a do-over; a one-year-late celebration of their degrees, earned while the world lurched to an unprecedented stop.

For graduates of the class of 2021, who lost the entirety of their senior year to virtual learning, distanced classrooms and the more-common-than-not likelihood of COVID-19 exposure, the 2021 commencement is a chance to be together with friends and classmates again — to celebrate in a way as close to normal as can be.

And for first-generation students like Chhon, an in-person graduation ceremony carries much more weight than ever before. So she's celebrating with her family members, and another sort of family, too: her advisers from UM's TRIO Student Support Services.



Darlene Samson, a first-generation college graduate herself, is the director of The University of Montana's TRIO program. Federally funded, the UM program works with a maximum of 375 first-generation, low-income and disabled students every year, providing advising and peer mentoring, as well as supplying grants and funding for textbooks and class materials when students might need them.



When it comes to talking about her students, Samson wears her heart on her sleeve. She says it was especially hard for her TRIO graduates in 2020, who spent their college careers working hard to be some of the first in their families to earn their degrees, only to be robbed of the chance to celebrate the effort they'd put into their degree.

"My heart just bleeds for those students who couldn't have that celebration," she says. "Especially last year, because they were so looking forward to it. I can remember working with one student, and he was just so let down because he had struggled to get through his degree, and then there was nothing."

Samson says graduation ceremonies mean more for first-generation students like the ones TRIO works with. Coming into college without the same support a student might get from parents who have degrees, attending university as a first-generation student can seem incredibly daunting, and the immersion into college life isn't without its challenges.

"You don't know what you don't know as a first-gen student," Samson says. "You don't know the questions to ask, you don't know where to go. And that's the sort of stuff we address in TRIO in a lot of different ways."

Chhon first saw a poster for TRIO Student Support Services when she was a freshman, as she was leaving the Food Zoo. As a first-generation student from an immigrant family, Chhon figured she would qualify, so she decided to apply.

In her three years at TRIO, Chhon says she always felt supported by her advisers, both academically and financially. With TRIO, she received grants and funding that helped her pay her way through her three years at UM.

"I came from a low-income family who struggled to live in America. I come from an immigrant family who came to America with nothing," she says of her Chinese and Cambodian parents. "The fact that I'm sitting here at a university, and got a lot of it paid for too — I did sort of come from the bottom, you know? I want to be able to make a name for myself."

Samson wishes she could do more for her students, who currently have to communicate with their TRIO advisers remotely or socially distanced, but she's still proud. First-generation students face an uphill battle of financial barriers and academic challenges at colleges where everything can feel like unfamiliar terrain. Despite everything, including a pandemic, the TRIO graduation rate for 2020 was 53.6% — the highest it's been since Samson began working with TRIO 29 years ago.

"Graduating with a degree opens up a lot more opportunities than I think some students understand," Samson says. And she's determined to make sure that graduation rate keeps going up.



University of Montana 2021 graduate Asia Chhon stands outside of Main Hall in her graduation regalia on April 18. Chhon is graduating as a third year student in sociology and international development studies.

"The fact that I'm sitting here at a university, and got a lot of it paid for too — I did sort of come from the bottom, you know? I want to be able to make a name for myself."  
-Asia Chhon

With May 1's commencement ceremonies fast approaching, Gina Di Domenico, the event coordinator for the UM Office of the Registrar, is tasked with coordinating the ceremonies and the unprecedented conditions that come with them — a daunting task as the University prepares for the estimated 1,400 students, and their designated four guests each, who have RSVP'd and plan on spending the day at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

"It was really heartbreaking last spring to have to cancel," Di Domenico says. "And we definitely shared in that heartbreak with the class of 2020. We're excited to celebrate double-time in May."

Divided into two ceremonies, which split the campus's colleges into morning and afternoon graduations, this year's commencement is a beast of its own. Di Domenico and her office have conducted meeting after meeting with the Missoula County Health Department and the University's COVID-19 task force. The team's risk mitigation plan has been approved by the county and, barring any sort of catastrophe, she feels confident in the May commencement arrangements.

Only students who have RSVP'd in advance can be at their respective ceremonies. All graduates and attendees will be sitting socially distanced and masked, and guests are required to submit contact information for potential contact-tracing efforts, should the Missoula County Health Department need to reach out to close

contacts in the event of a COVID-19 cluster.

In a normal year, the University offers a smaller fall commencement ceremony as well. But last winter, when fall 2020 students graduated, COVID-19 vaccine distribution hadn't even begun. So another set of graduates didn't get to walk, instead receiving diplomas in the mail and celebrating virtually. When the Office of the Registrar sent emails inviting graduates to plan for a ceremony in May, they reached out to fall 2020 grads as well.

Last year, 1,863 UM seniors celebrated their 2020 graduation on couches in family living rooms or alone in their apartments. They took pictures of themselves on their computers, with a virtual Main Hall and Mount Sentinel background. They wore their caps and gowns with the people they chose to isolate with. Not the cohort they'd spent the last four years with.

For this reason, says University of Montana director of communications Paula Short, it was important to the UM administration to make the 2021 commencement for grads new and old.

It was tricky, because planning something as large as a commencement ceremony affects more than just the students who walk. Short says the University administration had to navigate a series of go/no-go dates set in mind — deadlines by which they would have to make the difficult call whether or not to cancel in-person commence-





TRIO Student Support Services Director Darlene Samson, left, and Advising Coordinator Janet Zupan, right, sit in the "Bear Den" at the TRIO offices in the Lommasson Center on April 17. The room is a place where students can come to decompress, get coffee or a snack or study.

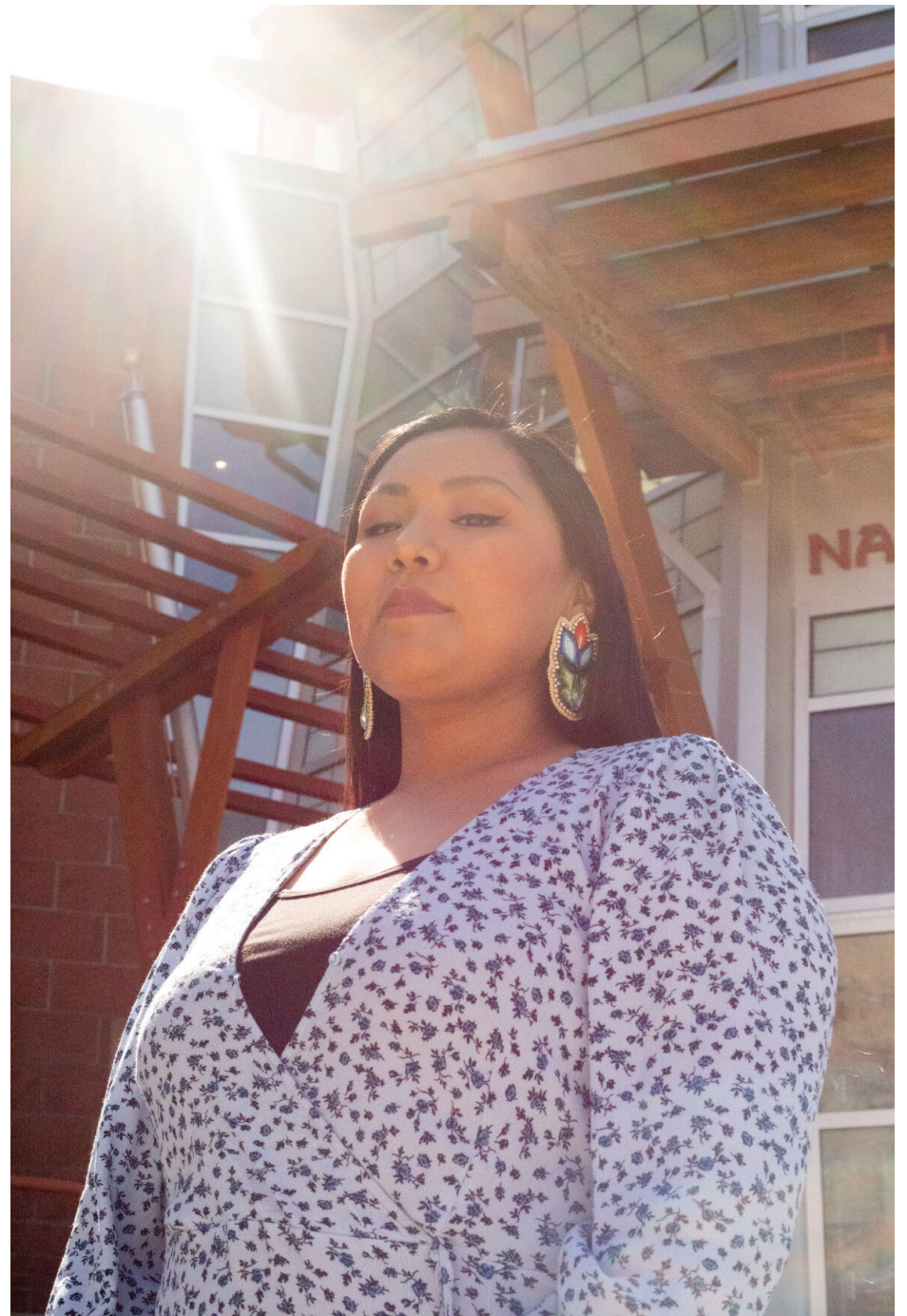
ment. Because families need to plan, too. Parents need to reserve hotels and buy plane tickets or plan road trips.

"It's no good to say, 'Hey, you know what, we're gonna wait until the day before and it's gonna be a game-day decision,'" Short says. "You can't do that with commencement because there's just too many logistical pieces, so we just kept looking at trends, and we just got to a point where it's like, 'This looks like it's going to be okay.'"

And Short says she hopes grads from both 2020 and 2021 choose to walk on May 1, after ev-

erything they've worked through, and to make up for a celebration they might have missed out on.

"It is such a pivotal and memorable and powerful moment, and to not have the opportunity?" Short says. "It doesn't surprise me that someone would come back to walk, especially in a global pandemic."



University of Montana 2020 graduate Brittney Hunter stands outside of the building she frequented the most during her time as a student, the Payne Family Native American Center, on April 17.

Brittney Hunter's diploma stayed in its envelope for a long time after she got it in the mail last December.

It didn't feel real. Not her last semester, not her finals, not her fall 2020 graduation. She had spent the past semester-and-a-half in Missoula finishing her degree virtually while raising three young children with her husband. Her family was there when she received her diploma from the mailbox, and she was grateful, but she wishes she could have celebrated more.

"It really did suck that I wasn't able to make a

celebration of it. It felt like it didn't really matter if I got it in the mail," she says.

Hunter, 30, had previously completed an Associate of Arts from Missoula College — before the pandemic — and had been able to celebrate the moment with her friends and family. She knew firsthand the joy of a real graduation. "I think if I didn't know that feeling beforehand, I don't think I would have realized that this is why I feel upset," she says.

Hunter says coming to college with the title of "first-generation student" was a comfort to



her, when she, like Chhon, gained the support of TRIO advisers and funding. She knew she had a foundation to turn to with questions or when she needed help, something she says was a major boost of confidence when she came to UM.

"It wasn't just not knowing how to do better in school," Hunter says. "It was knowing if I had any financial questions they would help me, if I had any academic questions they would help me. If I didn't know what major, or I wasn't sure about my major, I knew they had the resources to point me in the right direction."

She worked with a few of the TRIO advisers, but spent the most time with Micall Searles, her TRIO academic coach.

"She was my main go-to person," Hunter says. "She's this rare gem of inspiration, making you feel like you could do it, and she was there to support in any way."

Searles helped Hunter navigate her neuroscience degree path during her first year of undergrad. And when she realized Hunter was actually interested in school counseling and psychology, Hunter says Searles sat her down and helped her switch to the track on which Hunter would eventually graduate.

"What I've always loved about Brittney is how dedicated she is to whatever she is working on at that time," Searles says. "She was incredibly committed to learning and getting the most out of her education. She's an advocate, for herself and for other people."

Searles, now a career coach at UM's Experiential Learning and Career Success program, says that seeing her students graduate is one of the most rewarding parts of being involved in higher education.

"Especially with TRIO students, they've been through so much, they've worked so hard to get to where they are, and it's such a massive accomplishment to be the first in your family to graduate with a college degree," she says. "So to be able to do that and have that experience in-person is so important because it's a huge feat, and I'm excited for them to be able to have that experience."

Hunter, who is part Hopi and part Hualapai, now works as a Montana Campus Compact Americorps leader for Indigenous Research at UM and helps organize youth camps for Montana American Indians in Math and Science. She also works as an advocate with the Student Advocacy Research Center.

She's walking on May 1. For her, it's a reclamation of the work she did and the celebration she lost.

"I think it's going to feel like I got through that feeling of feeling like I missed out on a moment," she says. "I get to reclaim that."

It's a big moment for her family, too. One she says they are excited to celebrate, even if it comes half a year after she got her diploma in the mail.

"My uncle told me the other day, he says, 'It's not every day that you get a member of your relatives graduating from college.'"

And Hunter's next step is starting her masters of school counseling program in the summer.



Experiential Learning & Career Services coach Micall Searles works on a TRIO student's resume before a meeting.



Samson — the TRIO director — lights up thinking about next semester: TRIO is one of the departments moving into the soon-to-be renovated Aber Hall, and Samson has big plans for the space. She's ready to have in-person tutoring back. She's ready to advise her TRIO students face-to-face again, to leave her doors open once again.

She's not sure if she's going to commencement yet, but some of her fellow advisers plan on it. They joke about recognizing their students' faces underneath Griz masks — a sign of the times.

Chhon, who originally planned on law school, decided she wants to take some time after graduation to travel and volunteer instead. She says she came to college thinking she needed to study, then attend grad school, then work at a law firm. But after COVID-19, she took a step back and reminded herself to just live, too.

She's set to travel to Ghana and Rwanda to teach English as a second language.

Chhon says she doesn't quite know how to feel during her last few weeks in college. Since she's graduating early, she's leaving a lot of friends behind. And the pandemic took away the

in-person experience during her last year in, so it's complicated.

But in the end, she's excited to celebrate her successes with her family and walk across the stage at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

"It's definitely going to be a shock seeing so

many people there," she says. "But I think I'm going to feel accomplished. I think I'm going to feel relief, in a good way."

"Like, 'Wow, I did this. I was able to get through this. I'm done.'"

## This year's commencement will be livestreamed for extended family members and friends if they cannot attend in-person.



The 9 a.m. ceremony will celebrate the College of Humanities & Sciences, the College of Business and the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation and features guest speaker and honorary doctorate recipient Bill Franke.

The 2 p.m. ceremony will celebrate the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, College of Health, College of the Arts and Media, Missoula College and Master of Public Administration. Aislinn Roux, daughter of honorary doctorate recipient Bonnie Heavy Runner, will be speaking.



# 'Falcon and the Winter Soldier' is a predictable but entertaining tale of superhero sidekicks

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Carrying on Captain America's legacy is no easy task, especially when the weight of a multi-billion dollar franchise rests on a six-episode series.

The Disney+ original series, "Falcon and the Winter Soldier" shoulders the legacy well, even if its action-packed plot follows the basic meat-and-potatoes formula of most Marvel Cinematic Universe movies.

As a show centered around a globe-trotting struggle for Cap's shield, in which his former sidekicks join forces to stop an anarchist terrorist group, this series isn't the mind-bending treasure hunt "WandaVision" was. But it offers a fresh perspective to the MCU's caped (and metal-armed) crusaders.

"Falcon and the Winter Soldier" starts like most MCU films — with a dynamic opening sequence featuring Sam Wilson (Anthony Mackie), aka the Falcon, kicking serious ass. This eight-minute aerial rumble teases the central villains of the series, the Flag-Smashers.

But then the villains disappear as the series

zooms into the personal woes of Sam and Bucky Barnes (Sebastian Stan), aka the Winter Soldier. It turns out the Avengers organization doesn't provide financial security, forcing Sam to hawk his fame at a local bank to help his sister. He's also reluctant to take up the shield, shunning it for "personal reasons."

This series mostly stumbles in the beginning, when it separates two characters who work best together. While it's nice to see Bucky and Sam fleshed out as more than Steve Rogers' sidekicks, Stan and Mackie's chemistry is just so impeccable that a full episode dedicated to their separate storylines feels uneventful and slow.

Bucky grapples with his past as the Winter Soldier, trying to reconcile his prior actions by making amends to those he has wronged. By episode two, they butt heads at an air hangar, and Bucky spontaneously decides to accompany Sam on a random mission. From here, the show picks up the pace by shifting to Bucky and Sam's wild goose chase for the leader of the Flag-Smashers, Karli Morgenthau (Erin Kellyman).

The personal and social issues that both characters tackle in the first episode allude

to more contemporary issues throughout the season — racism, xenophobia and mental illness. A powerful moment comes when Sam meets Isaiah Bradley (Carl Lumbly), a Black super soldier who the U.S. government has tasked with killing the Winter Soldier/Bucky. Isaiah is a painful reminder of racism in America, as the "forgotten" Captain America used for his abilities and then imprisoned, cast aside because of his race.

Sam's circumstances are a little different, given that he was offered the shield and refused it, but the same underlying issue of race explains his reluctance. This fits nicely with one of the biggest climaxes of the show — the reveal of the "new" Captain America, who is a blonde-haired, blue-eyed white man. While the suspense is not particularly high, John Walker (Wyatt Russell) is fun to watch, particularly because it's hard to figure out if he's an ally, or a reincarnation of the super-douche Homelander from Amazon's dystopian superhero series "The Boys."

Walker's arc works well because it plays into how racism has influenced the Captain America legacy as a whole. Unlike Isaiah, Walker's super soldier acts bring him praise.

Even when Walker makes some questionable choices with the shield, he's dealt with leniently, with warnings and a court martial. Isaiah says this is nothing new, that America will never be ready for a Black Captain America. His point is blunt and ugly, but effective in showing that Sam's decision whether or not to pick up the shield isn't all black and white.

As a show geared toward a younger audience, this series doesn't delve into themes of race as deeply as HBO's "Watchmen," but it does tackle mature issues. Addressing race arguably makes the characters' relationships, particularly Sam and Bucky's, more nuanced. Bucky admits that he hadn't considered the racial implications when original Captain Steve Rogers gave Sam the shield — a testament to the notion that even Wakanda's prized "White Wolf" can be blinded by white privilege.

"Falcon and the Winter Soldier" is much more than meets the eye. While this series follows a familiar formula, it deviates from the MCU's pro-militaristic propaganda to present a story that is much more rooted in the real world.



A photograph of a graduate in a black cap and gown jumping joyfully in front of the University of Montana's historic red brick building. The building features a prominent clock tower and is set against a backdrop of green hills and a blue sky with scattered clouds. In the foreground, there is a well-manicured green lawn.

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A group photo of the Kaimin staff members, consisting of about 12 individuals of various ages and ethnicities, all wearing face masks. They are standing in a line against a plain, light-colored wall. Some are holding small objects or props, and they are all smiling at the camera.

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**Congratulations**  
to the Kaimin staff for a great year of boldly  
covering campus news.

**Best wishes**  
to graduating seniors and incoming 2021-22  
Editor-in-Chief Addie Slanger.



# Exploring the art of the mundane

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The University of Montana's Gallery of Visual Arts hosts its annual BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition, which houses the works of eight BFA students at UM. The show runs until April 30.

"It's a combination of everyone's efforts, everything we have learned and put together all wrapped up in a big art show," said Billings native Kain Brauneis, who is presenting his photography in this exhibition.

Brauneis chose to use street photography to capture the perception of Montana from an outside point of view. He says it came to him from a conversation with an Uber driver in Washington D.C..

"I realized their perception of Montana was based on Google images and Reddit threads," Brauneis said. "It came off like 'Of Mice and Men,' they just wanted to stand on the mountain and feel the wind."

The real Montana is different from outsiders' perspectives, Brauneis continued. Montana is not just frontiersmen wandering the wilderness, it's ordinary things like trying to find cheap rent in Bozeman or walking in downtown Missoula.

"When you look at the photos for two seconds, they seem average and mundane — everyday things. But if you spend a little long with it you think, 'Okay wow, this is actually pretty weird.'" Brauneis said. "I'm hoping with any photos that people break the desensitization of everyday life that they have in Montana."

Whitney Gardipee, originally from Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in north-central Montana, features politically-charged silkscreen prints that he created during his time at UM.

"I find it a really great way to vent my frustration, because my art right now is a lot of political art," Gardipee said. "Especially with this last summer and past few weeks, I find myself pretty angry."

That anger fuels his art. Gardipee's work tackles issues like Black Lives Matter, missing and murdered Indigenous people and homelessness in Missoula.

He thinks people need to come to the

exhibition not only because it's free and on campus, but also because it allows people to support UM fine arts students and the work they are passionate enough about to spend four years creating.

"I think I experience a sort of human enrichment in seeing fine and really any type of art honestly. Enrich your mind and enjoy yourself," Gardipee said.

Sonia Olson displayed her paintings, drawings and ceramic sculptures that mainly focus on western wildlife and designs.

"I like to see the secret hidden lives of other animals around me like deer or squirrels. Little creatures that might not be looked at enough or appreciated enough or seen as a nuisance," Olson said.

Olson said she focuses on painting the stories and struggles of these largely neglected animals. The uniqueness of her art comes from pulling patterns from skirts and dresses passed down from her family through generations.

"I started learning how to do the design patterns before I knew how to do the animals — it was a part of my family tradition. My grandmothers didn't have the opportunities to be a fine arts painter, but they could sew and embroider, they passed on those traditions to me," Olson said.

Now that she has the fine arts skills she learned from UM, she's able to give back to her family lineage and respect to her ancestors in places ranging from Wyoming to Kansas to Texas.

"There is a western feel to all the art, but also a Southern belle," Olson laughed.

Olson encourages anyone to go and see the exhibition, not only because it's socially distanced, but it also enables the hard work of so many students to finally be shown to the world.

"I think every artist has worked so hard to just produce something, that it's just astonishing once you get in there, it's mind-blowing and totally different," Olson said.



Sonia Olson stands in her gallery in the social sciences building that she has worked on for a year. Olson said her favorite part of making the gallery was having quiet time while painting and creating her pieces.

CONTRIBUTED | SHANE LUTZ



# Tyler Turco: Three injuries later, still loves rodeo

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Tyler Turco can often be found trying to hook brown trout with his fly fishing rod in a creek outside of the University of Montana rodeo team's practice facility in Lolo. He does this to pass the time before he helps run the chutes during rodeo practice for UM.

Being able to fly fish while at practice is an upside of being involved in rodeo at UM. However, for Turco, the sport is anything but calm. In September of 2020, he suffered an arm injury while riding a saddle bronc.

In fact, this was Turco's third injury that required surgery, a fact of the sport. However, the 24-year-old UM grad student, who still wears a bulky arm brace during competition, continues living the cowboy life, even when it leads to long recovery periods.

"It makes you think, 'Should I be doing rodeo?'" he said.

In September, Turco placed his saddle on a bucking horse he was about to ride at the Tri-County Rodeo in Deer Lodge. He said a prayer to himself giving thanks to safe travels and his support team while asking for his horse to buck and for himself to ride well. He then started to ease down into the chute, into the saddle and onto the horse.

With his left hand, he gripped the single rope coming from the horse's halter. It was enough to balance him, but not enough to control the horse. He held his right arm in the air.

Turco leaned back against the saddle. His feet in the stirrups were pointed toward the horse's front shoulders.

He nodded his head, the gate swung open and the horse started to buck.

For eight seconds, Turco moved his feet in a spurring motion from the horse's front shoulders to the back keeping the rhythm.

The buzzer sounded. His hand snapped down to get a hold on the saddle. He jumped off the bronc, planting both hands in the dirt, immediately tearing a tendon in his tricep.

Before injuring his arm, Turco had torn his groin, which also required surgery. Just as he recovered, a bronc lost its footing and fell with Turco on board, breaking his leg. It required two plates and 10 screws. Turco said he learned the hard way to let his body take a break from rodeo and heal.

"When I was riding hurt, I was like, 'I don't want to get on this sucker,'" he said. "This is the last thing I want to do right now."

Turco is currently a graduate student at UM, and has been riding saddle broncs since high school. His parents, who grew up in Denver, moved out of the city to Franktown, Colorado;



University of Montana graduate student and member of the UM rodeo team Tyler Turco stands outside a cattle pen at the Lolo Peak Arena on April 15. Turco, a Colorado native, knew he wanted to be cowboy after spending most of his childhood growing up around horses and watching classic western movies. He recently broke his left arm after he was bucked off in a horse accident, which put his rodeo practice on pause for a couple of months. He said he's eager to get back into rodeo as he prepared for a competition in Miles City last weekend. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

and established a small farm with horses, turkeys and chickens.

Growing up with his parents pushing a western lifestyle, Turco wanted to be a cowboy.

The summer before his freshman year in high school, Turco's mother put him into the La Veta Rodeo Bible Camp. Since all he knew was how to ride horses, he focused on saddle bronc riding.

He then joined a high school rodeo team in a town near Franktown. He competed twice at the national level and was the Colorado State Champion his senior year.

Turco went on to compete at the college level when he went to Clarendon College in Texas on a scholarship for rodeo. After graduating with an associate degree in science, Turco came to the University of Montana in 2017.

At UM, he got a bachelor's degree in parks and recreation. He is now working toward a graduate

degree in film and video. He hopes to make it to the National Finals Rodeo and someday buy some land.

"I'd like to raise some horses," Turco said. "Not so much cows."

Kory Mytty, a veteran in the rodeo industry, has been coaching Turco for the last three years. He said Turco's expectations are higher than his own, but they worked together to decide if Turco should sit out a rodeo due to his arm injury. Turco held off surgery until December, after the 2020 fall season ended.

Once he got the surgery, Turco wore his brace wrapped in tape for Montana State University's college rodeo on April 11. He couldn't fit his arm through the fence, making it hard to put his saddle on the broncs. Despite wearing the cast, he won a belt buckle for the best average score from all his rides during the rodeo.

Turco often travels with UM rodeo team members Rachel Cutler, who team ropes and goat ties, and Alexis Rose, who barrel races. Cutler said sometimes they listen to music or do homework, but Turco tends to just sleep.

"He pretty much naps the whole time, I swear," Cutler said.

The three of them faced a seven hour drive down to Miles City for a two-day college rodeo starting on April 18.

"It's a long drive," Turco said. "But it's just one rodeo, and it's an indoor arena. The horses are Burch's stock. They're good horses, so it'll just be fun."

Turco fell off his first horse, but ended up third in the short round by the end of the rodeo Saturday evening.



# Griz cross country's Beatrix Frissell speaks out against House Bill 112

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Beatrix Frissell, a runner on the University of Montana cross country team, has testified against House Bill 112 at the Montana state legislature twice.

She said part of the reason she's been advocating against the bill is because of her friendship with Juniper Eastwood, a former Griz cross country teammate who is transgender.

"House Bill 112 is especially close to my heart because if it had been enacted last year, I never would've been able to run with June and develop that friendship with her," Frissell said.

HB 112, otherwise known as the "Save Women's Sports Act," would require transgender athletes to compete in sports within the gender they were assigned at birth.

Maggie Bornstein, the ASUM student political action director, has worked with Frissell to coordinate her testimony on HB 112. Frissell said Bornstein has been a great support throughout the testifying process.

Bornstein said Frissell and other student athletes who have taken the time to testify on these bills have been inspiring.

"At ASUM, we are incredibly appreciative of students, but especially busy students like Bea, who find time to be civically engaged for the betterment of all students," Bornstein stated.

Eastwood, the first transgender cross-country runner to compete at a D1 level, has been inundated with media request to comment on the legislation. She was unavailable for comment by Kaimin presstime.

Frissell said in high school, she didn't know where she stood on the issue of transgender athletes competing in sports under the gender they transitioned to, but developed a stance on the issue through her friendship with Eastwood.

As a freshman in 2019, Frissell said she and Eastwood were fast friends, talking about how Eastwood drew her out of her shell and helped her feel welcomed on the cross country team. As the year went on, Frissell and Eastwood continued to connect over their shared values, especially a love for the outdoors and a love for Montana.

"June was so open and kind to a

freshman such as myself," Frissell said.

Frissell said she didn't know that Eastwood was transgender when they first met, but that learning about Eastwood's experience has forced an awareness of issues and bills such as HB 112. For Frissell, the way to go about making sport fair is not to completely ban transgender athletes, such as Eastwood, from competition.

"As an athlete, sport isn't about winning," Frissell said. "It's about the values we develop in that sport as athletes. I think everyone needs to be able to compete."

In addition to testifying at the state legislature about HB 112, Frissell has also had a one-on-one conversation with a legislator about the bill. She said that, as a cisgender female Division I athlete, the bill's purpose is specific to her. Yet Frissell said her conversations with legislators have made her feel like her voice on this subject does not matter.

"It's so frustrating hearing that 'other people' want this bill to pass, because other people aren't D-I female athletes calling you to talk about this bill," Frissell said.

But Frissell also said the experience of participating in advocacy work and being part of a community of people speaking about HB 112 has been an uplifting one. She said when she testified at the state legislature, it was really helpful to see that there were more people against HB 112 than for it.

"It's really been a process of holding that hope that there are good people out there, and that they care about transgender people," Frissell said.

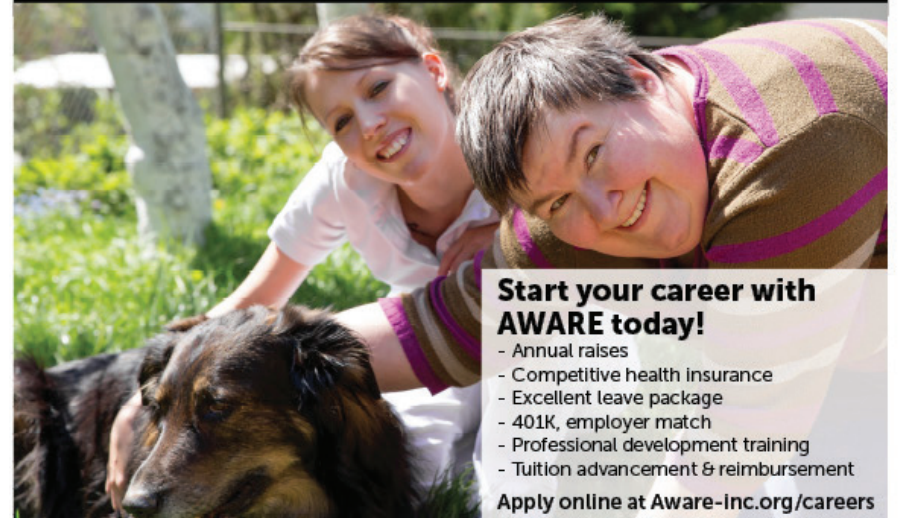
Through her work, Frissell hopes to convey that sports are about so much more than competition, and that transgender athletes know that their fellow athletes support them.

"Forget the competition and focus on being a better human," Frissell said.



University of Montana graduate June Eastwood, then a junior, talks with her teammate Beatrix Frissell about a race on Oct. 5, 2019, while being filmed by a film crew. The race was Eastwood's first D1 competition since beginning her transition. SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN

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### **A Call for Positive & Constructive Change at UM**

**A-** After years of mismanagement, the administration at the University of Montana has once again embarked on a campaign to destroy the University's core curriculum. In justifying this destructive policy, the UM administration has decided to shift the blame from itself to academic departments in the College of Humanities and Sciences by claiming that the main reason for the upcoming cuts is the decrease in enrollment in various fields of the humanities and social sciences. This claim is made so that the administration will not be forced to explain why it has failed to recruit students and why it has not been able to put its own financial house in order.

**B-** The UM administration is well aware that while the number of students in various fields of the humanities and social sciences has dropped at UM, enrollment in these very fields has been steadily increasing at Montana State University in Bozeman. The reason for this imbalance is very clear. While departments, programs, and faculty positions have been eliminated at UM, they have remained stable and flourishing at MSU. Consequently, there is no confidence on the part of students that they can finish a four-year program at UM without any sudden and unpredictable interruptions. For the last several years, we have watched our professors retire and their positions go unfilled. We have watched our degree programs being attacked without any justification, other than the excuse that such cuts might allow the administration to resolve its budgetary deficits.

**C-** As the university attacks our departments and programs, the administration has decided to invest much of its existing funds in wasteful projects, adding new buildings, renovating dining halls, and converting dormitory rooms into yet more administrative offices. We clearly see the lack of vision, creativity, and administrative foresight, and we recognize that a small group of individuals who arrived here recently, and are making the highest salaries in the state, are deciding for all of us what to keep and what to cut. As has been said before, anyone can cut and any individual who knows how to drive a bulldozer can level a structure. What we expected to see from the highly paid administration at UM was a vision of building UM on a sound foundation with growth and prosperity in its near future.

**D-** The principle of accountability demands that the cuts to staffing at the University be initiated at the top of the power pyramid, that is, with Main Hall cutting highly paid positions that have no real impact on the daily life and quality of the university. According to our analysis, cutting only five administrators at the top who do not contribute to any form of student experience at UM can save nearly \$1.5 million. Such cuts can be applied to a number of offices that provide handsome salaries but no measureable outcome in the service of students, staff, and faculty.

**E-** While the administration claims to have our best interest in mind, we view the behavior of the UM administration toward our concerns and anxieties to be outright insulting. Despite repeated efforts to get access to the "reorganization" plan that the university is cooking up, all conversations and deliberations at UM are treated as secret and confidential. A public institution cannot run its internal affairs in secret, especially when it deals with the future of thousands of students and hundreds of staff and faculty members.

**F-** What is to be done? First, we urge the administration to not play the old game of cutting classes, programs, and faculty positions after the end of the spring semester or during summer when everyone is gone. A courageous leadership is an honest and transparent leadership. With one week remaining until the end of the semester, we urge the administration not to implement any cuts now or while everyone is gone during late spring and summer. If the administration truly respects us, it needs to wait until fall when everyone is back to discuss its reorganization plan. Second, include the voices of students, staff, faculty, and the public in this decision-making process. The administration's approach so far has clearly been elitist, undemocratic, and top-down. Third, instead of spending money on wasteful projects, the administration needs to fully invest in the core curriculum of the University, which has always shaped our identity as a campus. Finally, administrators should consider resigning their positions if they lack the creativity and imagination to offer positive and creative solutions. It is never too late to stand up and admit that one has failed and is out of solutions on how to put the University back on the right track. We believe that there are competent administrators who, if selected through an open and transparent national search, can turn the UM ship around and make it once again the state flagship that it always has been and should remain.

**Paid for by UM Students for Positive Change**